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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8. Please add new Claims 11 and 12. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method of synchronizing audible alarms and visual strobes in a building alarm system comprising:
connecting the audible alarms and visual strobes in the building to common power lines and applying power to the audible alarms and visual strobes through the common power lines; and
after the audible alarms and visual strobes have been powered, repeatedly changing the voltage on the power lines to control timing of the audible alarms and visual strobes.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a change in voltage which triggers the strobes ends an audible beep.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising powering the visual strobes to charge a capacitor in each strobe to a firing voltage without activating the strobe; and wherein the step of changing the voltage on the power lines includes providing a synchronization signal through the power lines to cause each strobe to discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each strobe such that the strobes flash in synchronization with each other.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 further comprising controlling timing of the strobes to provide an encoded visual output.
5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A building alarm system comprising, in the building:
a pair of power lines;
at least one audible alarm powered by said power lines;

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visual strobes powered by said power lines; and
means for applying power to the audible alarm and visual strobes through said
power lines and ~~repeatedly changing~~, after said power has been applied, repeatedly
changing said voltage on the power lines to control timing of the audible alarm and the
visual strobes.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the audible alarm is non-continuous and synchronized to the visual strobes.
7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the means for changing voltage triggers the visual strobes and ends an audible beep.
8. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A building alarm system comprising, in the building:
a pair of power lines;
at least one audible alarm powered by a voltage on said power lines, the audible
alarm being controlled by a change in the voltage on the power lines after power is
applied; and
visual strobes powered by said voltage on said power lines, the strobes being
repeatedly triggered to synchronously flash with a change in the voltage on the power
lines after power is applied.
9. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the audible alarm is noncontinuous and synchronized to the visual strobes.
10. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8 in which the change in voltage that triggers the strobes ends an audible beep.
11. (New) A system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the visual strobes further comprise a capacitor in each strobe charged from the power lines to a firing voltage without activating the strobe, the change in the voltage on the power lines causing each strobe to

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discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each strobe such that the strobes flash in synchronization with each other.

12. (New) The system of Claim 5 wherein the visual strobes further comprise a capacitor in each strobe charged from the power lines to a firing voltage without activating the strobe, the step change in voltage on the power lines causing each strobe to discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each strobe such that the strobes flash in synchronization with each other.